

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGs. 2, 5 and 9. This sheet, which includes FIGs. 2, 5 and 9, replaces the original sheets including FIGs. 2, 5 and 9. Previously omitted reference numeral 201 has been added in FIG. 2; Previously omitted reference numeral 501 has been added in FIG. 5; and previously omitted reference numerals 901-903 have been added in FIG. 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 22, 2008. Claims 1-10 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 and 10 are the independent Claims. Claims 1-3, 8 and 10 have been amended. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein. Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the description and for not including reference signs.

In response, the Specification is amended to include a description of reference numeral 401 (FIG. 4), reference numeral 701, 703, 704 (FIG. 7), reference numeral 301 (FIG. 11) and reference numeral 1401 (FIG. 14). Furthermore, FIGs. 2, 5 and 9 are amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) to include reference signs with corresponding descriptions in the Specification, as discussed below. No new matter is introduced.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above drawing objections are respectfully requested.

Specification

The Abstract is objected to for informalities. In response, Applicant has amended the Abstract in compliance with M.P.E.P. §608.01(b). Furthermore, as discussed above with respect to the drawing figures, the Specification is amended to include a description of reference numerals added to FIGs. 2, 5 and 9.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objections are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 was objected to for a minor informality. In response, Claim 8 is amended to address the concern expressed in the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above objection is respectfully requested.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness. In response, Claims 2 and 3 are amended to address the concern expressed in the Office Action.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 112 rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, claims 1-3 and 10 are amended to recite a tangible computer readable medium.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the above § 101 rejection is respectfully requested.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,101,481 (Miller) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0103731 A1 (Barnard).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that the claims herein are patentable in light of the clarifying amendments above and the arguments below.

The Miller Reference

Miller is directed to a task management system. One person alone is responsible for each task and only that person can change the task details. Personnel indirectly involved may influence the task, but they do no actions and see no details. Task details are shown only to personnel who are directly involved. Only people directly involved in a task have access to task details and people only indirectly involved do not

have access to the task display (*See, Miller; Abstract, Col. 7, lines 42-50 and Col. 8, lines 2-3 and 55-56*).

The Barnard Reference

Barnard is directed to the implementation of a procurement and accounts payable system (*See, Barnard; Abstract*).

The Claims are Patentable Over the Cited References

The present application is generally directed to a method and a system that support to manage projects such as the construction of electric power plants and chemical plants, developments of computer software and commercial products and operations of product manufacturing.

As defined by amended independent Claim 1, a computer readable medium is encoded with a project program change management system including an input means to input a project program change regarding a direct arbitral object that compose works of a project. A project change influence inference means is provided that infers and specifies indirect objects different from the direct object that compose works of a project and which are indirectly influenced by the project program change of the direct object in response thereto. A stake holder inference means is provided that infers and specifies indirect stake holders who are relevant to the indirect objects inferred and specified in the project change influence inference means. A information notice means that notifies information regarding influence of contents of program change to indirect stake holders of the indirect objects who are inferred and specified by the stake holder inference means. The indirect stakeholders of indirect objects are notified of changes of the direct objects. Indirect people who have a stake in indirect tasks cannot see the changes made to a main task modified by the direct person responsible for that task.

The applied references fail to disclose or suggest the above features of the claims of the present invention. In particular, the applied references fails to disclose or

suggest "the indirect stakeholders of said indirect objects are notified of changes of said direct objects," as required by amended independent Claim 1 of the present invention.

Miller is directed to managing a plurality of tasks to be carried out by a plurality of personnel. As disclosed in column 7, lines 42-50, one person alone is responsible for each task and only that person can change the task details. Furthermore, personnel indirectly involved may influence the task, but they do no actions and see no details. Task details are shown only to personnel who are directly involved. Again, column 8, lines 2-3 and 55-56 teach that only people directly involved in a task have access to task details and that people only indirectly involved do not have access to the task display. Thus, indirect people who have a stake in indirect tasks cannot see the changes made by a direct person to a direct task.

In contrast, the present invention requires the indirect stakeholders of the indirect objects to be notified of any changes to the direct objects. In this manner, a program change notice 1201 is automatically sent to the stakeholders and the project program change and the program change influence can be immediately co-owned by the project manager or the project managing division and the stakeholder. Therefore, it is possible to reduce the communication troubles and quickly take countermeasures against the occurrences of the project program changes (*See, Specification; FIG. 12 and Page 14, line 20 to Page 15, line 8*).

Thus, Miller does not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention as required by amended independent Claim 1. The ancillary references do not remedy the deficiencies of Miller.

Since the applied references fail to disclose, teach or suggest the above features recited in amended independent Claim 1, those references cannot be said to anticipate nor render obvious the invention which is the subject matter of that claim.

Accordingly, amended independent Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 2, 3 and 10 are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with reference to amended independent Claim 1 and such allowance is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from amended independent Claims 1-3 and 10 and recite additional features of the invention which are neither disclosed nor fairly suggested by the applied references and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: November 13, 2008

By: 

Dariush G. Adli
Registration No. 51,386
Attorney for Applicant(s)

1999 Avenue of the Stars Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Phone: (310) 785-4600
Fax: (310) 785-4601